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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/751,233	01/02/2004	Sean William Tucker	10017979-2	1119

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Intellectual Property Administration
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EXAMINER

FERGUSON, MICHAEL P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/751,233

Applicant(s)

TUCKER, SEAN WILLIAM

Examiner

Michael P. Ferguson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04/20/04, 03/29/05.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 17, 2004 has been entered.

Specification

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 6-8 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 6 (line 3) recites "a pair of "L" brackets, each of the "L" brackets". It should recite --a L-bracket, each of the L-brackets--.

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Claim 6 (line 4) recites "comprises fasteners". It should recite --comprises a fastener--.

Claim 6 (line 5) recites " "L" brackets, wherein the first legs of said "L" brackets". It should recite --L-brackets, wherein the second legs of said L-brackets--.

Claim 7 (line 2) recites " "L" brackets... other "L" bracket". It should recite --L-brackets... other L-bracket--.

Claim 8 (line 2) recites "legs of each pair of said "L" brackets". It should recite --leg of said L-bracket--.

For the purpose of examining the application, it is assumed that appropriate correction has been made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishikura et al. (US 5,558,405).

As to claim 1, Ishikura et al. disclose a fastening system comprising:

a first mount bracket **11,2,3** rotatably attached to a first assembly **4**;

a second mount bracket **12,33** rotatably attached to a second assembly **4**, the second assembly not including any elements of the first assembly; and

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a perpendicular rigid attachment **32** joining the first mount bracket with the second mount bracket wherein the attachment enables the first mount bracket and the second mount bracket to rotate together about a common axis (bolts **51**) and wherein the attachment enables a portion of the first mount bracket and a portion of the second mount bracket to be separated by space (Figures 1-6).

As to claim 2, Ishikura et al. disclose a system wherein the first mount bracket **11,2,3** is attached to the first assembly **4** with an assembly screw **51** and an insert **5** (Figure 3).

As to claim 3, Ishikura et al. disclose a system wherein the insert **5** is a threaded insert and the assembly screw **51** screws into the threaded insert (Figure 3).

As to claim 4, Ishikura et al. disclose a system wherein the rigid attachment **32** between the first and second mount brackets comprises a machine screw **32** (Figure 4).

As to claim 5, Ishikura et al. disclose a system wherein the first mount bracket **11,2,3** comprises an ear **2,3** for manual grasping and positioning of the fastening system (Figure 2).

6. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carter (US 5,797,412).

As to claim 1, Carter discloses a fastening system comprising:

a first mount bracket **54,130** (Figure 16) rotatably attached to a first assembly **22** (Figure 13);

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a second mount bracket **54,130** rotatably attached to a second assembly **22**, the second assembly not including any elements of the first assembly; and

a perpendicular rigid attachment **136** joining the first mount bracket with the second mount bracket wherein the attachment enables the first mount bracket and the second mount bracket to rotate together about a common axis (bolt **136**) and wherein the attachment enables a portion of the first mount bracket and a portion of the second mount bracket to be separated by space (Figures 13, 14 and 16).

As to claim 2, Carter discloses a system wherein the first mount bracket **54,130** is attached to the first assembly **22** with an assembly screw **67** and an insert **70** (Figure 6).

As to claim 3, Carter discloses a system wherein the insert **70** is a threaded insert and the assembly screw **67** screws into the threaded insert (Figure 6).

As to claim 4, Carter discloses a system wherein the rigid attachment **136** between the first and second mount brackets comprises a machine screw **136** (Figure 16).

As to claim 5, Carter discloses a system wherein the first mount bracket **54,130** comprises an ear **54** for manual grasping and positioning of the fastening system (Figure 13).

As to claim 6, Carter discloses a system wherein the first and second mount brackets each comprise:

a L-bracket **130**, each of the L-brackets (having a L-shaped section extending from link **54**) having a first leg **128** and a second leg **122,54** and the rigid attachment

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136 comprises a fastener **136** for removable joining together the first legs of the L-brackets, wherein the second legs of the L-brackets are separated by the space (Figure 16).

As to claim 7, Carter discloses a system comprising:

rotatable fasteners **67** for rotatably fastening the second leg **122,54** of one of the L-brackets to a structure **22** and for rotatably fastening the second leg **122,54** of the other L-bracket to a support **22** (Figure 6).

As to claim 8, Carter discloses a system wherein the second leg **122,54** of the L-bracket rotatably fastened to the structure **22** comprises an ear **54** for manual positioning of the fastening system (Figure 13).

Double Patenting

7. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

8. Claims 1-8 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,672,787.

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from

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each other because the limitations of the application encompass the limitations of the patent. The limitations of claims 1-8 of the application are obviously met by claims 1-5 of the patent because it is obvious that the "first and second mount brackets" and the "perpendicular rigid attachment" of instant claim 1 is encompassed by the "first and second mount bracket" and the "rigid attachment" of patent claim 1, and that the "first and second perpendicular arm portions" of the patent claim 1 constitute the "L-brackets" of instant claim 6.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments, filed December 17, 2004, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-8 under McIntyre (US 4,097,012) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Ishikura et al. (US 5,558,405) and Carter (US 5,797,412).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure. The following patents show the state of the art with respect to fastening systems:

Jungwirth et al. (US 6,213,673), Taylor (US 4,344,718) and Adams, Jr. (US 4,035,092) are cited for pertaining to systems comprising first and second rotatable mount brackets.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Ferguson whose telephone number is (571)272-7081. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571)272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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05/25/05

Daniel P Stodola

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